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BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1944



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ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,
TORQUAY.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Torquay.*

MR MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit an Interim Annual Report for 1944, in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health ; as in previous war years much of the customary detailed information is omitted from certain of the sections.

During the year under review the conditions in the town varied from those of a restricted area back to the other extreme, with the busy turmoil of a crowded reception area once again ; but throughout it all the record of health has fortunately remained satisfactory, without any noticeable alteration in the physique and nutrition of the children. Certain emergency provisions were required temporarily to meet the difficulties of resumed evacuation ; but the way in which the normal health and allied services have been able to deal with the unprecedented population movements and overcrowded conditions throughout the war is indeed creditable.

Preliminary measures have been taken to acquire land so that further Corporation houses may be erected at the earliest possible moment. Even before the war housing was a problem of some magnitude, but after "the years that the locust hath eaten" it has become a problem overshadowing everything else ; and the relation between housing and health is intimate and profound. Yet even more than mere buildings are required ; for the first and most serious casualty of the war was the home, broken with immeasurable severity by universal mobilisation of men and women and by widespread evacuation, and without the re-establishment by those who dwell in the houses of a sound home and family life throughout its country, no nation can remain stable or secure.

Further progress is recorded in the scheme which has been put into operation for the intensive destruction of rodents, those unseen destroyers of food and potential carriers of disease.

The routine duties have been carried out thoroughly and efficiently, although it is quite impossible within the compass of a report to give a vivid and complete picture of all the wide range of work, much of which is silent and unrecorded.

Above the entrance of the New York Health Department is the motto "Public Health is Purchasable"; but the price to be paid includes something more than pounds, shillings and pence, important as these are. For there must be constant vigilance and unremitting care by the health services, by the community and by the individual. During the war organisation by the community has, of necessity, been predominant, perhaps to such an extent as to make many people now assume and expect that everything needful for their well-being should be arranged and provided by others than themselves. But the self help and effort of the individual can never be superseded or replaced, for in many matters they constitute the paramount factor; indeed, to cite but three of the health problems of war, the increase of illegitimacy, of venereal disease and of verminous conditions, it is at once apparent how inescapable is the responsibility of individual action. Each person, no less than the community as a whole, has an irreplaceable contribution to make to preventive medicine; and without paying the price in this way it will be impossible, however hard the health services struggle and work, to ensure that the continual and remarkable advances of science accrue for the betterment of man's estate.

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge both the encouraging support given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also the co-operation and helpfulness of the Medical Profession of the Borough in the intermingled work of the unusual times.

To the Staff is due full credit for the results achieved, for their tireless work and loyalty have been amazingly maintained during the long, difficult struggle; and such a record is, indeed, full of promise for the years that shall be.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF.

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital, and Chief Billeting Officer.

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.CAMB.

Acting Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.

T. GIBSON, M.D.ED., C.M., D.P.H.LOND.

Medical Officer, Ante-Natal Clinic and Post-Natal Clinic.

*P. A. McCALLUM, M.B.GLASG., CH.B., D.P.H.CAMB.

Obstetric Consultants.

*P. A. McCALLUM, M.B.GLASG., CH.B., D.P.H.CAMB.

*B. VENN DUNN, M.D.ED., F.R.C.S.ED.

Ophthalmic Surgeons (School Medical Service and Maternity and Child Welfare).

†*J. MASTERTON THOMSON, M.B.GLASG., CH.B., D.O.M.S.ENG.

§*H. V. MACKENZIE, M.D.ED.

Aural Surgeon (School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Isolation Hospital).

*W. H. BRADBEER, M.S.LOND., D.L.O.ENG.

Pathologist and Bacteriologist.

*J. T. QUINLAN, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., N.U.I.

(b) Dental

School Dental Officers and Dental Officers for Maternity and Child Welfare

†N. HARRIS, L.D.S., R.C.S.ENG.

§Miss J. M. RIPLEY, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG.

(c) Nursing

Health Visitors, Child Protection Visitors.

§†Mrs. P. PARTRIDGE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

§†Miss E. COUNIHAN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

§†Miss G. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

§†Miss M. L. BANYARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.CERT.R.S.I.

Matron, Isolation Hospital.

Miss M. J. STEWART, S.R.N., R.F.N.

(The staff at the Isolation Hospital includes the Matron, two Sisters and six Nurses.)

(d) Sanitary

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Gas Decontamination Officer (Food), and Billeting Officer.

M. G. CROOK, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H., Cert. 1st Cl. Lab. Technique, Smithfield Tech. Inst., Instructor's Cert., C.A.G.S.

District Sanitary Inspectors, Billeting Officers, and Assist. Gas Decontamination Officers (Food).

†G. J. LOVELESS, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.
A. THOMPSON, C.R.S.I.

J. F. H. SMITH, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H., Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.

H. T. BEECHEY, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip. (Hons.) R.I.P.H.H.

§R. S. DAVEY, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

(e) Other

Public Analyst.

*T. TICKLE, B.SC., F.I.C.

Clerks.

†W. H. NICKELS.

MRS. V. J. KNAPMAN.

†P. H. BURGE, C.S.I.B.,

§MRS. P. M. EDWARDS.

Cert. Insp. Meat and

§MRS. M. BRAMSON.

Food R.S.I., Cert. San.

§Miss A. M. MOXHAY.

Sc. R.S.I., Cert. Inst.

§Miss D. P. ROSSON.

San. Engineers.

†W. D. WHITE.

*(Sanitary Inspectors.)**(Billeting.)*

§E. SHEPHERD, Dip.

§Miss I. M. WILTSHIRE.

R.I.P.H.H.

§Miss L. M. HARRIS.

(Maternity and Child Welfare.)

Miss K. HUDSON.

*Assistants to Sanitary Inspectors.**Senior Ambulance Attendants.*

E. D. TUCKER.

J. R. WICKINS.

E. J. SELLEK.

§M. H. WHITE.

§M. L. WHITE.

*Ambulance Attendants.**Rodent Operatives.*

F. BACKWELL.

§L. SCANT.

§L. SOPER.

§MRS. B. L. COLLINGS.

§W. E. BRANDRETH.

§MRS. V. LEAR.

§R. E. C. JAMES.

§Miss B. JOHNSON.

† On Active Service.

* Part Time.

† Also School Nurse.

§ Temporary.

SECTION A.
**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
 OF THE AREA**

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1944	45,930
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books	13,032
Rateable value (end of 1944)	£533,700
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1944) ..	£2,119

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

*Including the chief Industries carried on in the Area and
the extent of Unemployment.*

There is nothing exceptional to record about the social conditions, and the usual details in connexion with industry and unemployment are not to be published.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1944,
*which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward
 and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	16.02
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	39.15
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	17.77

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

						<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</i>
No. 29	Puerperal sepsis	....	....	....	....	0.00
No. 30	Other maternal causes	....	....	....	....	2.61
Total	....	....	....	....	....	2.61

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	42.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	43.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	36.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	120
„ Measles (all ages)	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	4

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required special comment.

During the year there has been nothing to report.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1944 is 45,930 ; and this figure is used in calculating the marriage-rate, birth-rate, death-rate and other statistical returns. The population at the last census in 1931 was 46,352.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 736, of which 393 were male and 343 female ; there were 625 legitimate and 111 illegitimate births. There were 30 stillbirths, 26 legitimate and 4 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 16.0 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.6 for England and Wales and 20.9 for the smaller towns ; the stillbirth-rate was 0.65 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the smaller towns being 0.50 and 0.61, and the stillbirth-rate per 1000 live and still births was 39.2.

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 15.01 per cent in 1944 compared with 6.44 per cent in 1939 and 6.8 per cent in 1938. The proportion for England and Wales before the war was 4.38 per cent in 1933, 4.31 per cent in 1934, compared with a minimum of 3.95 per cent for the period 1901-1905 and a maximum of 6.26 per cent in 1918.

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 5.7 per 1,000 population compared with 5.5 in 1943, 5.8 in 1942, 6.2 in 1941, and 8.0 in 1940.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 805, of which 388 were males and 417 were females.

The crude death-rate was 17.8 per 1,000 population compared with 18.8 in 1943, 15.9 in 1942, and 15.4 in 1941 ; the death-rate in 1944 for England and Wales was 11.6, and for the smaller towns 12.4.

In normal times in order to make adjustments for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, the Registrar-General supplies an "areal comparability factor" with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. This year, however, the Registrar-General again states: "The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death-rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors, and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions."

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay (1) Heart disease 210; (2) Cancer 120; and (3) Intra-cranial vascular lesions 109, which between them are responsible for more than half the total deaths. The deaths from violent causes, other than suicide and road traffic accidents, numbered 34.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying table, supplied by the Registrar-General.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 42 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 46 for England and Wales and 44 for the smaller towns; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 43.2 and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 36.0. These rates tend to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which they are calculated; thus the infant mortality rate for Torquay in 1943 was 48, the rate for legitimate infants being 42.2 and for illegitimate infants 81.1.

The Maternal Mortality rate was 2.61 per 1,000 total births, the rate from puerperal infection being 0.00; the corresponding rates for England and Wales were 1.93 and 0.59.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1944						Males	Females
All Causes						388	417
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	....	....	....	....	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	....	....	....	....	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	23	8
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	3	4
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	....	....	2	3
9.	Influenza	....	....	....	....	5	1
10.	Measles	....	....	....	....	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	....	....	....	....	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	....	....	....	....	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and	....	....	....	....	7	—
	Oesophagus (Males only)	....	....	....	....	—	5
	Cancer of Uterus (Females)	....	....	....	....	—	5
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	....	14	11
15.	Cancer of Breast	....	....	....	....	—	17
16.	Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	....	33	33
17.	Diabetes	....	....	....	....	4	5
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	....	....	....	....	37	72
19.	Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	99	111
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	....	....	....	....	12	10
21.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	23	11
22.	Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	12	11
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	....	8	10
24.	Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	....	....	....	....	8	3
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....	3	1
26.	Appendicitis	....	....	....	....	1	3
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	....	4	6
28.	Nephritis	....	....	....	....	24	16
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	....	....	....	....	—	—
30.	Other Maternal causes	....	....	....	....	—	2
31.	Premature Birth	....	....	....	....	4	6
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury,	....	....	....	....	—	—
	Infantile Disease	....	....	....	....	5	7
33.	Suicide	....	....	....	....	3	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	....	....	....	....	3	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	....	....	....	....	15	19
36.	All other Causes	....	....	....	....	35	38
Death of Infants under 1 year						15	16
{ Total						13	14
{ Legitimate						2	2
{ Illegitimate						—	—
Stillbirths						15	15
{ Total						14	12
{ Legitimate						1	3
{ Illegitimate						—	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA

1. (i) *Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority, including their duties, are incorporated in the beginning of the Report.*

Dr. H. A. Fielden, Hon. Pathologist to the Torbay Hospital, resigned in July on account of ill-health, and was succeeded by Dr. J. T. Quinlan as Acting Hon. Pathologist.

Miss M. Moran, one of the Health Visitors, left in February for a similar post in Hertfordshire, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Miss M. L. Banyard, who took up her duties in May.

- (ii) (a) *Laboratory Facilities.*

There has been no change.

- (b) *Ambulance Service.*

Owing to alterations in March in the dispersal, for security reasons, of the Civil Defence Ambulance Service, the Scheme for a joint arrangement with the Corporation Ambulance Service was dissolved ; and in July, owing to requisitioning of the premises, the Corporation Service was transferred to Grist's Garage, Lisburne Square.

- (c) *Nursing in the Home.*

- (d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

- (e) *Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.*

There have been no changes during the year.

3. *Midwifery and Maternity Services.*

- (i) *Midwives Act, 1936.*

The work under the Midwives Act has proceeded satisfactorily and without incident ; 18 midwives notified their intention to practise. The Scheme by which the Queen's Institute carry out the domiciliary midwifery of the Borough has continued to operate well ; during the year there were 284 domiciliary confinements.

(ii) *Maternity Services.*

(iii) *Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.*

The arrangements at the Torbay Hospital remain unchanged, with 2 ante-natal and 9 lying-in beds, and 133 Torquay mothers were admitted for their confinements.

The combined scheme of the Hazelwood Morningside unit, described in the previous Report, has continued to function in a very efficient and creditable way, with an excellent record of work. Under this arrangement the unit is supervised by Mrs. L. Banyard, S.R.N., S.C.M., Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society Homes; and all the maternity work is carried out at Morningside, while Hazelwood is an ante-natal and post-natal hostel for ex-Service girls sent by the Ministry of Health and for cases from the Children's Aid Society.

In addition, a certain number of resident mothers are admitted direct to Morningside for their confinements, although this is subject to the consent of the Senior Regional Officer as follows :

“(1) That the beds are not required for expectant mothers from raided areas. An expectant mother to whom this approval applies should, therefore, understand that, although her booking is accepted, her admission cannot be guaranteed, since it must be dependent upon contingencies which cannot be foreseen.”

During the year there were 982 births notified (about double the pre-war number), and of these 712 were local cases, or counted as such. It is interesting to note that 60 per cent of the total resident mothers were confined in maternity homes or hospital; and if the number is excluded of confinements in private nursing homes or private wards of the Hospital, then it is seen that about 50 per cent of the remaining or Council-aided cases were confined in maternity homes or hospital, and the other 50 per cent were confined in their own homes by domiciliary midwives. The actual figures are :

Torbay Hospital Council-aided cases	....	....	....	133
Morningside Emergency Maternity Home Council-aided cases	....	....	....	132
Totnes County Maternity Home Council-aided cases	....	....	....	6
Torbay Hospital Private Wards	....	....	....	26
Private Nursing Homes	....	....	....	131
				—
				428
				—
At home by Queen's Institute of District Nursing	....			284

On account of the influx of many expectant mothers during the evacuation in July and August, it was imperative to make prompt arrangements for still more maternity beds, and fortunately there was available the nursery wing at Kilmore, kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. E. Whitley of Kilmore, which at the outbreak of war was equipped and had since been held unused in reserve as an

auxiliary isolation hospital. This provided a further eight beds, and it was staffed and put into immediate use as a further section of the main Hazelwood Morningside unit; for by interchange of bookings, as beds became vacant, it was possible to obtain the fullest and most economical turnover of cases, which enabled a very difficult and critical time to be surmounted. Not only were evacuee mothers in Torquay admitted, but a number of evacuees from the surrounding county area were also accommodated, and 64 confinements took place in this section of the unit up to the end of December.

The provision of maternity accommodation during mass evacuation is one of the most harassing tasks because, apart from the official parties of evacuees, many expectant mothers (some at the very end of pregnancy) come to billets or lodgings by private arrangement; and it became impossible to estimate, and very difficult to meet, the need at short notice for maternity beds. And it was a considerable relief that all the cases were satisfactorily dealt with, for which the greatest credit is due to the staffs of the Emergency Homes in their untiring, incessant and exacting work.

(iv) *Care of Premature Infants.*

Following Circular 20/44, measures for the care of premature infants were reviewed in the light of the recommendations. It is recognised that at the present time it will not be possible to carry out all the improvements, but as the care of the premature infant is closely related to neo-natal mortality, it is essential to do whatever is immediately practicable, and to deal with the remaining considerations in future developments.

In order to obtain more accurate information as to the weight of such infants, the birth cards were at once amended to include a space for the weight at birth when this is $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less: the amended cards came into use at the beginning of May, and from then to the end of the year the number of babies notified who weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less was 60. The assistance given to cases at home has been increased; and the provision of specialist treatment in hospital is available, with special arrangements for the transport of such cases in a draught proof cot by ambulance. And details of the arrangements were sent to all the medical practitioners and midwives in the town.

(v) *The Care of Illegitimate Children.*

The scheme fully described in the previous Report has been operating throughout the year, with the detailed measures to help in the resettlement of the mother and to safeguard the welfare of the child as effectively as possible under existing circumstances. The cases referred to the social worker numbered 103, and perhaps the most distressing feature has been the very regrettable increase in illegitimacy among married women.

vi) *Home Helps.*

This scheme has continued under increasing difficulties, for with the growing demands of the war on woman power it has become almost impossible to find suitable women to act in this capacity.

(vii) *Health Visitors and Infant Welfare Centres.*

The Health Visitors have continued to carry out a large amount of most creditable work ; for in addition to their normal duties they have, with considerable success, given special attention to diphtheria immunisation, to the eradication of verminous conditions, to the increased problems of illegitimacy and of the adoption of children, and to many of the difficulties of evacuation.

(viii) *Verminous Conditions and Uncleanliness.*

The measures described last year following Circular 2831 have been diligently continued ; and there is nothing to comment upon except to emphasize once again the close connexion between this problem and unsatisfactory careless homes.

(ix) *Child Life Protection.*

There is nothing exceptional to report.

(x) *Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.*

The supervision by the Child Protection Visitors of these cases has continued, and during the year the number notified was 17, and the number of children adopted was 17.

(xi) *Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, etc., cases.*

These arrangements are unchanged.

(xii) *War-time Day Nurseries.*

Two war-time Day Nurseries continued in operation, a part-time nursery at Chelston Woodhayes, with accommodation for 24 children aged 2-5 years, and a full-time nursery at Hillside for 35 children from 0-5 years whose mothers are in work of national importance.

The part-time nursery at Chelston Woodhayes was discontinued at the end of December, owing to the need no longer existing.

(xiii) *Nursery Units.*

The Unit under Circular 2515 was continued.

(xiv) *Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil.*

In connexion with the scheme for the distribution of vitamins administered by the Ministry of Food, the assistance outlined previously was continued.

4. *Nursing Homes.*

There is nothing to report.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water.*

In this report very full details are requested in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. R. V. Toms, has kindly supplied some of the information.

(i) *Whether the water supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality; (b) in quantity.*

The water supply has been maintained throughout the area of supply at a high standard of quality and ample quantity.

(ii) *Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses.*

Bacterial and chemical examinations have been made of both raw and treated water. The water is treated at the Watershed with lime to maintain approximately a pH 8.0; it is filtered and treated with chlorine to obtain a residual of 0.5 parts per million.

Comprehensive analyses of the raw water numbered 2, bacteriological and chemical, as follows:

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
LONDON, E.C. 4.

1. SAMPLE 20.3.44. TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR (UNTREATED).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.—Very faint opalescence—flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris, few particles of vegetable debris. Turbidity: less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Normal, Hazen :		Metals: Iron	...	...	0.015
Less than	..	Other metals	...	...	absent
Reaction pH Neutral	...	Odour	...	...	nil
Electric conductivity at		Free Carbonic Acid	...		0.2
20°C	...	Total solids, dried at 180°C			7.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	Alkalinity as Calcium Car-			
Hardness: Total	...	bonate	...	...	0.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	Carbonate	...	Non-carbonate	
Free Ammonia	...	temporary	0.5	permanent	1.5
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	Nitrogen in Nitrites	...		absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.		Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...		—
at 27°C	...	Albuminoid Nitrogen	...		—

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Bacteria grow- ing on Agar per cc. or ml. in }		1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
		1	2	240
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	—	Absent	100 c.c.
Bact. coli	Present	—	Absent	100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present	100 c.c.	Absent	10 c.c.

This sample contains only a minute trace of suspended matter, and has no discoloration. The water is practically neutral in reaction, soft in character, contains comparatively little saline matter in solution, and no metals apart from a minute trace of iron. For the untreated reservoir water, it is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity, and no difficulty should be found in the effective treatment of this water.

2. SAMPLE 20.3.44. FERNWORTHY SUPPLY AT TRENCHFORD
OUTLET GAUGE.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.—Very faint opalescence—slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris, few particles of vegetable debris. Turbidity : less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Hazen : Yellow- brown	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH Faint Acid	...	35	Free Carbonic Acid	0.2
Electric conductivity at 20°C	...	6.7	Total solids, dried at 180°C	4.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	43	Alkalinity as Calcium Car- bonate	0.4
Hardness : Total	...	0.9	Carbonate	Non-carbonate
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.9	temporary 0.4	permanent 0.5
Free Ammonia	...	0.06	Nitrogen in Nitrites	absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0056	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	...	0.012	Albuminoid Nitrogen	—
Metals : Iron	...	0.260		
Other metals	...	0.020		
		absent		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of Bacteria grow- ing on Agar per cc. or ml. in }		1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
		2	36	220
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	1 c.c.	Absent	0.1 c.c.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	Present	1 c.c.	Absent	0.1 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present	100 c.c.	Absent	10 c.c.

This sample has noticeable colour but is not unduly turbid, containing only a small trace of suspended matter. The water is approximately neutral in reaction, but the pH value is on the acid side of neutrality. It is very soft in character, contains very little saline matter in solution, and no metals apart from a trace of iron. It shows organic and bacterial impurity, in which respect it is less satisfactory than the sample from the Trenchford Reservoir.

Efficient treatment of this water is required in order to render it suitable for public supply purposes.

A comprehensive analysis of the treated water going into supply numbered 1, bacteriological and chemical, at the Water works, as follows :

SAMPLE 20.3.44. TAP OFF MAIN OF WATERWORKS STORES, TORQUAY.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.—Very faint opalescence—very few particles of mineral debris. Turbidity : less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Normal	...	...	Odour	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH Ft. alkaline	...	8.4	Free Carbonic Acid	...	absent	
Electric conductivity at...	...	...	Total solids, dried at 180°C	...	8.0	
20°C	...	100	Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	...	...
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	1.4	bonate	...	...	1.1
Hardness : Total..	...	3.0	Carbonate	...	Non-carbonate	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.15	temporary	1.1	permanent	1.9
Free Ammonia	...	0.0000	Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	absent	
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0020	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	—	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.	...	...	Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	—	
at 27°C	...	0.025				
Metals : Iron (Total)	...	0.040				
In solution	...	0.025				
Other metals	...	absent				
“Free chlorine reaction”	...	absent				

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Bacteria grow- ing on Agar per cc. or ml. in ...			1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
... }			0	0	40
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	...	...	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Bact. coli	...	...	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	...	Present	—	Absent 100 c.c.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright and free from colour. The water is faintly alkaline in reaction, soft in character, contains comparatively little saline matter in solution, and no metals apart from a trace of iron. It is of good organic quality and a high standard of bacterial purity, and is considered an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Furthermore, samples are taken regularly each week in the Borough from a variety of sources, taps in private houses, canteens, dairies, drinking fountains, schools and farms : 28 of these were submitted for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical analysis.

The results of the 28 bacteriological examinations were all alike good, as follows :

COUNTY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

“ Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ... nil
This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically.”

The result of the chemical analysis from a tap in the Borough was :

COUNTY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

CHEMICAL (Results expressed as parts per 100,000)

Hardness, as calcium carbonate—Temporary	0.8 ;		
Permanent	2.0 ;	Total	2.8
Chlorides, as Chlorine	... ..	...	1.5
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	...	...	0.001
Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen	...	...	0.0026
Nitrates, as nitrogen	...	...	0.024
Nitrites, as nitrogen	...	...	nil
Oxygen (absorbed 3 hrs. at 37°C)	...	...	0.043
Metals—lead, copper and zinc—not detected.	Iron—large trace—		
pH value	7.2.		

Remarks.—Sample is slightly opalescent and of a brownish tinge.

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ... nil.

CONCLUSIONS

This sample is of a satisfactory standard of organic and bacterial purity

(iii) *Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and result of analyses.*

In all the analyses no trace of metals was found except a minute trace of iron. The pH is maintained at the level mentioned previously to avoid action on lead.

(iv) *Action in respect of any form of contamination.*

Fortunately, no action has been required. The treated water is of good organic quality, with a uniformly high standard of bacterial purity, and is considered an efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(v) *Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supply from public water mains (a) direct to the houses; (b) by means of standpipes.*

(a) The proportion of dwelling houses with a supply from public water mains direct to the houses is 98.75 per cent, and the proportion of the population thus supplied is 98.5 per cent.

(b) The proportion of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes is 1.25 per cent, the proportion of the population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent.

In view of the national interest which is being taken in water supplies and of the excellent supply both in quantity and in quality in Torquay, it is instructive to pause in retrospect and to be reminded of the fearless pioneer to whose foresight this is due. In his annual report for 1893 the late Dr. P. Q. Karkeek, then Medical Officer of Health, wrote :

“ *Water Supply*.—Like nearly every other town, our supply ran short owing to the exceptional drought of the past summer, and we had to be put on the intermittent service for a time. I have had to draw your attention to the nature of our water supply, to its quality and to its quantity, and I have spoken here and elsewhere on the subject, and need now only remark that my suggestions and proposals have been treated by you with the attention and consideration so important a matter deserves. You have, after due deliberation, endeavoured to effect radical alterations and improvements, and I trust, when the time comes for my writing another annual report, that I shall be in a position to congratulate you on the success of your efforts.”

But it was not until his report for 1897, after much opposition, burning of effigies, and clamorous protest, that he was able to state :

“ *Water Supply*.—It has been a source of great satisfaction to me, and I believe also to you, that the ‘ Water Question ’ has at last passed beyond the stage of discussion. The ratepayers have given their consent, the necessary Act of Parliament has been obtained, and the last debate taken place on the question whether Torquay shall own and control the watershed from which it obtains its drinking supply. So far satisfactory, and it now remains to carry out this scheme, and clear away every human habitation from off the ground, and the sooner the better. I look forward to the day when I shall be able to announce that no human being lives on the Torquay Watershed.”

And, finally, in his report for 1900 Dr. Karkeek recorded :

“ At last I am able to report that every house on the watershed has been emptied, and that no human being lives thereon. The farm buildings, cowsheds, and stables where not already pulled down are empty, and homes for those who look after the property have been built in safe positions off the watershed. Although the past summer and autumn have been exceptionally dry, and the supply of water in the reservoirs reached a very low level, yet the quality of the water was satisfactory, and no complaints were brought to my notice. It will take some years yet before the results of the agricultural use of the watershed quite disappears from the water, but that it will gradually reach the highest standard of purity I have not the least doubt.”

The wisdom of his concluding phrase has been amply justified by the march of events ; and, realising the benefits which have followed his long-forgotten vigorous action half a century ago, we feel that Shakespeare was right—

“ Man’s evil manners live in brass : their virtues
We write in water.”

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. P. W. Ladmore, M.Inst.C.E., has kindly given the following details and those in connexion with public cleansing and salvage.

“ There have been no extensions to the sewerage system during the year, but four cottages at Longpark have been connected to the Borough sewerage system.

“ There has been no conversion from any conservancy system.”

(iii) *Public Cleansing.*

“ There have been no alterations in the arrangements for Public Cleansing.”

(iv) *Salvage.*

“ The collection and recovery of salvable materials continue, resulting in satisfactory returns, although there is no doubt that these could be much improved if the average householder took a little more care in the sorting of his salvage.”

The following are the details of the amounts recovered :

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	...	545	7
Metal : ferrous	...	...	...	212	14
Metal : non-ferrous	...	...	...	3	4
Textiles	...	...	...	19	11
Oil	...	...	...	—	9
String	...	...	...	1	3
Bones	...	...	...	17	3
Rubber	...	...	...	7	4
Kitchen Waste :					
Collected by Corporation	...	...	...	988	0
Collected by Pig-keepers	...	...	...	1095	17
Bottles	...	...	...	2513 doz.	
Hats :—					
Men’s 498					
Women’s 1096					

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all districts in the Borough has been very efficiently carried out during the year under your Senior Sanitary Inspector, who gives the subjoined tables showing the scope of the work. Considerable attention has been devoted to the inspection of food and milk, the purity and wholesomeness of which are of vital importance at all times; although it has perhaps taken the restrictions and conditions of this war to make such an obvious fact more fully realised and appreciated.

<i>Dwelling Houses.</i>	<i>No. inspected.</i>	<i>Visits.</i>
Under Public Health Acts	498	2161
Under Housing Acts	488	1008
Overcrowding	11	23
Verminous Premises	91	312
Rats and Mice	393	761
Infectious Diseases	59	106

<i>General Public Health.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Drains and sewers :	
Inspected	789
Tests applied	369
Cesspools	44
Urinals and Latrines	3
Stables	31
Piggeries	27
Ditches and Streams	4
Open Spaces	60
Yards	91
Public Conveniences	93
Tents, Vans and Sheds	—
Factories with mechanical power ...	149
Factories without mechanical power ...	65
Workplaces ...	18
Outworkers ...	2
Common Lodging Houses	4
Smoke Observations	—
Cinemas, Dance Halls	12
Markets	65
Shops—Shop Act	63
Offensive Trades	3
Marine Stores	3
Schools	92
Offices ...	9
Static Water Tanks ...	30

<i>Water</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Water Supply : visits	....	....	....	221
samples	....	....	....	49
Swimming Bath : visits	....	....	....	3
samples	....	....	....	5

<i>Meat and Food.</i>				<i>Inspections.</i>
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	....	....	....	610
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	86
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	701
Cowsheds	....	....	....	212
Dairies : visits	....	....	....	538
samples	....	....	....	2033
sediment tests	....	....	....	11
Bakehouses	....	....	....	25
Hotels	....	....	....	99
Ice-cream Premises	....	....	....	—
Fishmongers	....	....	....	129
Fish Quay	....	....	....	164
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	7
Greengrocers	....	....	....	333
Grocers	...	...	...	379
Restaurants	....	....	....	68
Other Premises	....	....	....	720

<i>Miscellaneous.</i>				<i>Visits.</i>
Decontamination of Food	....	....	....	60
Evacuation Scheme	....	....	....	4074
Food Control	....	....	....	168

NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Written</i>		<i>Statutory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Public Health Act	197	154	147	101	1	1	345	256
Housing Act	10	9	20	8	3	4	33	21
Factory Act	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—

Measures against Rodents.

Following the measures taken in 1943 in connexion with the Infestation Order, and described in the previous reports, considerable progress has been made in this work, which has been ably organised by your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

These details are given by him : “ In addition to the whole-time rodent operative previously engaged 3 more were appointed, and some idea of the scope of their work is shown by these figures. The premises dealt with numbered 888, with a total of 4,277 visits paid. The estimated number of rats killed is 7,764, and the bodies found were 718 ; the materials used included red squill 4 lbs., arsenic $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., zinc phosphide 24 lbs., sausage rusk 6 cwt., and phosphorus bait 28 lbs.

“ The ‘ Workable Area ’ for this part of the county includes in addition to Torquay, eleven neighbouring urban and rural authorities, and in May a course lasting two weeks was arranged for the rodent operatives of this area. The course, which was opened by Mr. Alderman T. Bowden, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and Major O’Brien, Ministry of Food Inspector for the area, was attended by representatives of the Local Authorities and their officers, comprising some 20 sanitary inspectors and rodent operatives. The general arrangements were made by your Senior Sanitary Inspector, assisted by the District Sanitary Inspectors. Visits were paid to sewage works, slaughter houses, piggeries, marine stores, and other premises, for instruction purposes ; and the training was conducted by two Instructresses of the Ministry of Food.

“ During the year a ‘ Dig for Victory ’ exhibition was held in the Town Hall, and the valuable opportunity was taken of arranging and providing exhibits in rodent repression and control. Your Senior Sanitary Inspector and District Sanitary Inspectors, together with the rodent operatives, worked in a rota for the purpose of giving advice and explanation to the large number of people visiting the exhibition.”

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Preliminary steps have been taken by the Corporation to acquire land for the erection of houses as soon as conditions permit ; and a Ministry of Health Inquiry into the proposed compulsory purchase order was to be held early in 1945.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) *Milk Supply.*(iv) *Bacteriological Examination of Milk.*

As arranged with the Devon County Council, samples of milk are sent each week to the County Bacteriologist. A total of 125 samples were submitted for examination; 103 were samples of non-designated milk, of which 57 passed and 46 failed, 7 were samples of accredited milk, all of which passed, 10 were samples of pasteurised milk, of which 9 passed and 1 failed, and 5 tuberculin-tested samples passed.

46 samples were examined for tuberculosis, and all proved negative.

(v) *National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.*

In connexion with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, your Senior Sanitary Inspector arranged to co-operate in this by having samples taken for the ten minutes resazurin test, which is intended as a platform rejection test for detecting milk of poor keeping quality. This reaction depends on the reduction of a dye of a definite standard when a specified amount is incubated for ten minutes with a certain amount of the milk, the resulting colour being then matched in a comparator; according to the result obtained, the milk is graded into three groups, (a) accepted; (b) salvaged if possible, otherwise rejected; (c) rejected.

During the year 1,276 samples were taken on delivery at the dairies throughout the town and submitted to the testing laboratory: 626 samples were classified A (accepted), 272 were classified B (salvage), and 378 were classified C (rejected).

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	1416	997	1822	11740	183
Number inspected	1416	997	1822	11740	183
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	21	1	14	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	552	370	17	1826	36
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	39.3	39.4	0.99	15.7	23.5
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	12	3	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	52	202	8	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	4.0	21.5	0.6	—	19.3

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

	<i>No. of Articles.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Other Food condemned included :—		
Bacon and Cooked Meat ...	13	267
Eggs ...	42	—
Flour ...	23	398
Fish (boxes) ...	2	196
Fats ...	5	57
Poultry ...	50	592
Cereals ...	5	3
Confectionery ...	100	100
Dried Fruit ...	11	470
Cheese ...	5	151
Sugar ...	1	83
Tea ...	4	2
Coffee ...	1	5
Chocolate and Sweets ...	135	58
Vegetables ...	4	1328
Pickles ...	30	33
Fruit ...	15	1834

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods—continued.*

				No. of Articles.	Weight in lbs.
Cordials (bottles)	...	...	...	1	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	496	367
Tinned goods :		...	...
Fruit	...	...	...	66	111
Jam	...	...	...	72	117
Fish	...	...	...	313	258
Vegetables	...	...	...	158	181
Meat, Brawn, etc.	...	...	...	299	648
Milk	...	...	...	648	636
Soup	...	...	...	98	95

(c) *Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

The work under this Act has been continued, your Senior Sanitary Inspector acting as Sampling Officer, and the following is the record of samples taken :—

				<i>Formal</i>		<i>Informal</i>	
				No. of Samples	Not Genuine	No. of Samples	Not Genuine
Milk	...	...	...	43	3	7	1
Butter	...	...	...	—	—	8	—
Margarine	...	...	...	—	—	6	—
Lard	...	...	...	—	—	8	—
Whisky	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	—	—	3	1
Tarragon Vinegar	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Ground Cinnamon	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Potato Soup	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Gelatine	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Chocolate-flavoured Biscuit							
Mixture	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Self-Raising Flour	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Self-Raising Cake Flour	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Sweetened Cake Flour	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Ground Nutmeg	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Golden Raising Powder	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Baking Powder	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Red Plum Jam	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Mustard Condiment	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Mustard	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Saccharin Tablets	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Beef Sausage	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Chocolate Cup	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Arrowroot	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Proprietary Medicine	...	...	...	—	—	2	—

The formal samples not genuine were as follows :—

(1) One sample of milk showed a deficiency of fat to the extent of 8 per cent; the milk was produced at a farm in the Borough, and further samples taken at the time of milking were genuine. In this case a warning was sent by the Authority to the producer.

(2) Another sample of milk taken at a retailer's premises was found to show a deficiency in fat of 4 per cent ; a further sample taken on delivery showed the fat content to be exactly the minimum permitted by statute. A warning was sent to the producer.

(3) Another sample of milk, taken from a large churn in a retailer's dairy, was found to have 16 per cent added water ; further samples from the wholesaler were genuine. Proceedings were instituted, and the Court, finding extenuating circumstances, dismissed the case on payment of costs.

The informal samples not genuine were as follows :—

(1) A sample of vinegar was taken as a check on that supplied by a manufacturer who had previously been convicted for selling vinegar deficient in acetic acid. The sample was 20 per cent deficient in acid. It was ascertained that the bottles of vinegar were old stock, apparently from that associated with a previous prosecution. The stock was changed by the manufacturers, and several subsequent samples were genuine.

(2) A sample of milk taken after the prosecution in connexion with the formal sample previously mentioned, showed 6 per cent added water. A formal sample taken at the wholesaler's dairy before collection by the retailer was genuine ; the sampling officer kept the churn under observation until collected, and a formal sample obtained later from the retailer's dairy was genuine, although the informal specimen taken subsequently at a house showed the result stated. No action could be taken, but samples taken early in 1945 from these dairies were genuine.

(3) A sample of sweetened cake flour was infested with meal worm and was unfit for food ; the stock was disposed of accordingly.

(d) *Food Control.*

At the end of March your Senior Sanitary Inspector and your District Sanitary Inspectors discontinued the work of Food Enforcement Inspectors which for several years they had carried out for the Food Control Committee, as arrangements were made for whole-time Enforcement Officers.

(e) *Food and Disease.*

The risks arising from the handling of food have been accentuated by the war-time emergency and the various communal organisations ; for the introduction of a carrier or of an unrecognised case of disease would seriously affect a much greater number of consumers.

Strict personal cleanliness among staff and a high standard of hygienic conditions in the premises must be maintained ; and knowing the frailty of human memory and the ease with which good intentions unconsciously tend to lapse, it is most essential to reiterate these obvious but often sadly neglected facts.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of infectious disease for the year is given in the subjoined table, which also includes the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	61	57	—
Diphtheria	7	7	—
Measles	8	4	—
Whooping Cough	98	16	2
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	11	—
Pneumonia	60	24	22
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	—	—
Erysipelas	8	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	5	3	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	8	—	—

There is nothing of exceptional interest upon which it is necessary to comment. The case-rate for diphtheria was 0.15 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.58 for England and Wales and 0.69 for the smaller towns; the case-rate for scarlet fever was 1.33 per 1,000 population, compared with 2.40 for England and Wales and 2.67 for the smaller towns.

Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation has been continued satisfactorily, and there were 417 pre-school children and 97 school children immunised during the year. By the introduction, at the request of the Ministry of Health, of a new system of records, the errors have been eliminated of not allowing for the automatic increase in age each year when calculating the percentage of children immunised. Under this revised accurate method the number of children aged 0–4 years inclusive immunised is 60 per cent, and the number of children aged 5–14 years inclusive is 78 per cent.

Scabies.

The arrangements for treatment previously outlined have continued, and have proved adequate.

2. Isolation Hospital Treatment.

The number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital is shown in the following table :—

<i>Cases admitted.</i>				
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	65
Diphtheria	...	...	...	9
Enteric Fevers	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	17
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	5
Rubella	...	...	...	11
Mumps	...	...	...	16
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—
Acute polio-myelitis	...	...	...	1
For observation	...	...	...	23
Other Causes	...	...	...	23
				179

3. Tuberculosis.

Particulars of any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

No action was required.

4. Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1944.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1944 are given in the following table :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
5 to 15 years	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	19	17	1	2	—	3	—	2
25 to 35 years	7	10	—	1	2	1	1	—
35 to 45 years	4	5	—	—	2	2	—	—
45 to 55 years	7	2	—	—	7	1	—	—
55 to 65 years	2	2	—	—	8	—	1	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
TOTALS	43	39	3	3	23	8	3	2

SECTION G.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This section is not being published, a minimum number of copies having been produced for submission privately to the Local Authority and to the Ministry of Health.

SECTION H.

MISCELLANEOUS1. *Government Evacuation Scheme.*

Under this Scheme Torquay has remained a reception area and your Medical Officer (who is also School Medical Officer) has continued to act as Chief Billeting Officer, with your Senior and District Sanitary Inspectors as Billeting Officers. Complete co-ordination has thus been maintained throughout between the Public Health and School Medical Services and the Evacuation Scheme.

The general routine of this section, the work of the official Helpers, the hostel, and the medical arrangements for evacuees, described in previous reports, have been satisfactorily maintained.

Following the attack by flying bombs against the South of England, further organised evacuation took place, and Torquay once more received official parties under the Government Evacuation Scheme. On 13th July 459 unaccompanied children arrived and were billeted; on 14th July 566 mothers and children were received, and after being accommodated temporarily in Audley Park, Westhill and Homelands Central Schools were billeted or placed in requisitioned houses. On 26th August 215 unaccompanied children were received (although only 150 were expected), and after a small party of 37 had been transferred to Brixham, the remainder were billeted satisfactorily; this was, indeed, much more troublesome than the prosaic statement indicates, for it was late on a Saturday evening when this occurred, and the difficulties of feeding and billeting the unforeseen extra number were considerable.

In addition, after the restricted area ban had been removed in July, there was a vast influx of visitors and private evacuees, which taxed all available accommodation to the utmost. And, following the long and tedious years of war and of evacuation, patience and tolerance had worn somewhat thin. Perhaps these extremely trying conditions, which almost overwhelmed the department with the tremendous amount of work and the countless insoluble problems, were the most difficult of many difficult situations.

Towards the end of the year a number of areas were removed from the evacuation list, and the return was organised of the remnants of the evacuees from these towns and areas. Owing to the short hours of daylight, the mothers and children (and the unaccompanied children, in their turn) were brought by cars to the schools at Westhill and Audley Park, where provision was made for sleeping and for giving them tea, supper and breakfast; the parties and escorts were then taken by special buses to the station for the early start (before the end of black-out time) by special trains. The luggage and perambulators were also collected and placed on the trains. On 12th December 203 unaccompanied children and escorts were returned to the Ashford district, and on 15th December 139 mothers and children and escorts went to another part of Kent.

Only a very few children remained to send back to towns like Plymouth, Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth, etc.; and these, with the necessary escorts, were sent in small groups or individually. Those evacuees from the freed areas who are homeless have remained in Torquay.

2. *Civil Defence.*

These arrangements have been continued on the lines indicated in previous reports.
